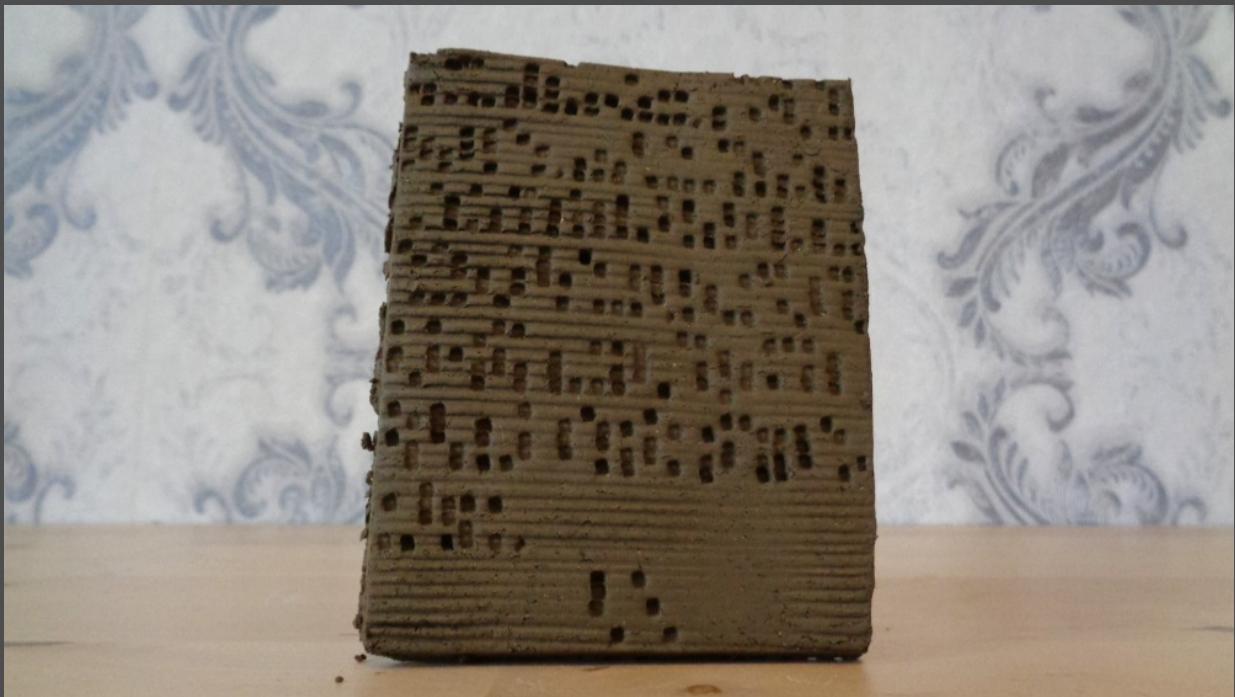


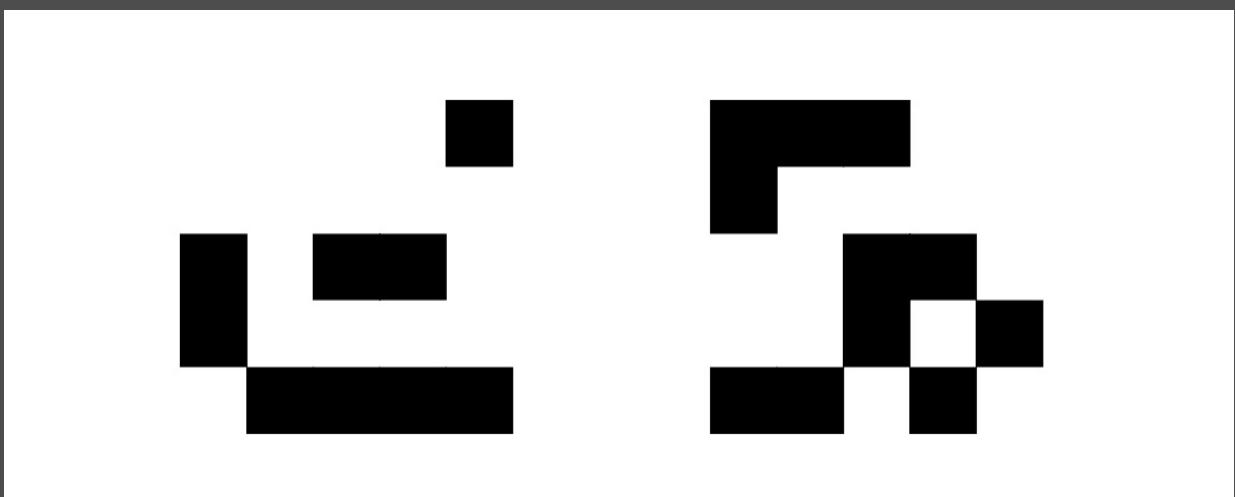
Art



Dotsies Clay Tablet

Preface

My roommate studied history and created a [clay tablet](#) with [Cuneiform](#) for me. I put it in one of my drawers. By chance I came across the [Bleeptrack](#) website and am fascinated by their projects. These projects inspire me strongly and give me my own ideas. That's a really good advantage when you share knowledge. At some point I [listened to a lecture](#) from her (with a friend) in which the Dotsies font was mentioned. This is what it looks like.



I also saw [this Twitter thread](#) and had the idea to label a clay tablet with the Dotsies font. I find old clay tablets really interesting, because sometimes they can hold thousands of years of information. We live in a digitized present, but in the future these clay tablets will survive more time than a hard drive from my laptop. To my justification I have to note here that the letters *s*, *t* and *v* somehow cause me problems, although I had made a little cheat sheet for myself. Anyway, I really enjoyed the project.

Materials

You don't need a lot of materials for this project. You can buy clay in the creative market and everything else can be found in the household. You can find a square wooden stick in the basement or if you ask your parents or go to a flower shop. When the clay is old and dry you can soften it with water. In the article I describe how this works and what you should pay attention to.

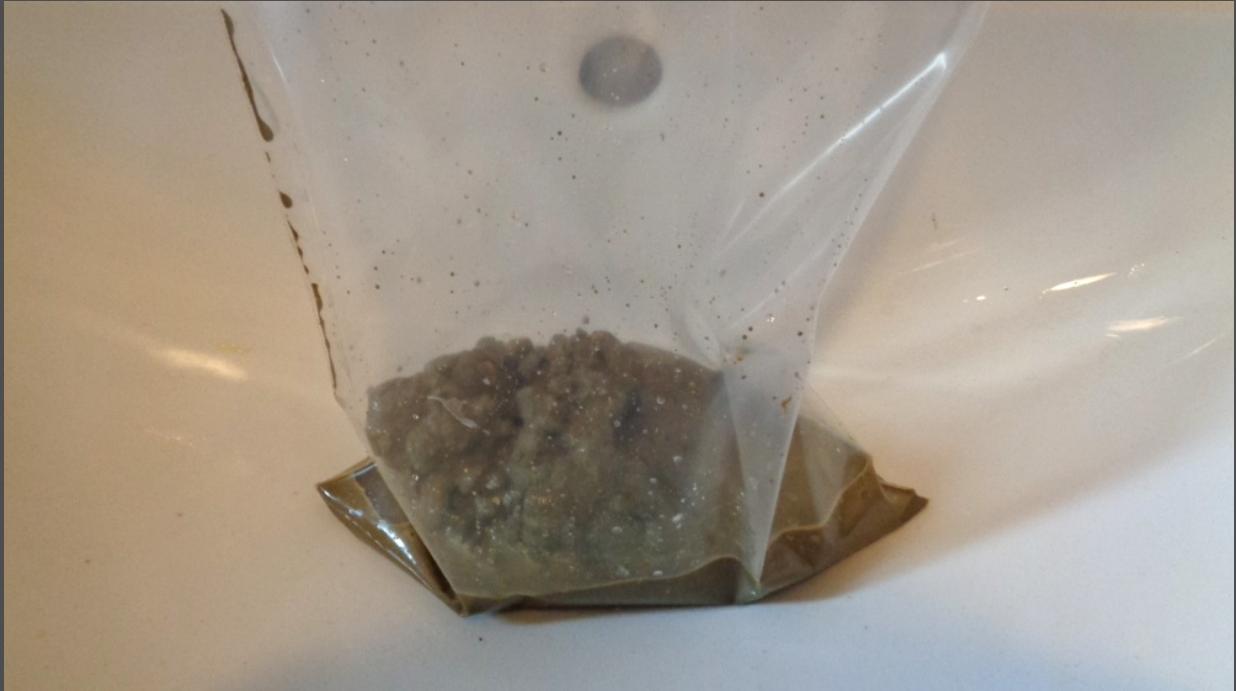


- Clay
- Water

- Plastic Bag or Schell
- Long Bread Knife
- Cardboard
- Wood Saw
- Wood Stick
- Hammer
- Ruler
- Old Bottle
- Precision Knife

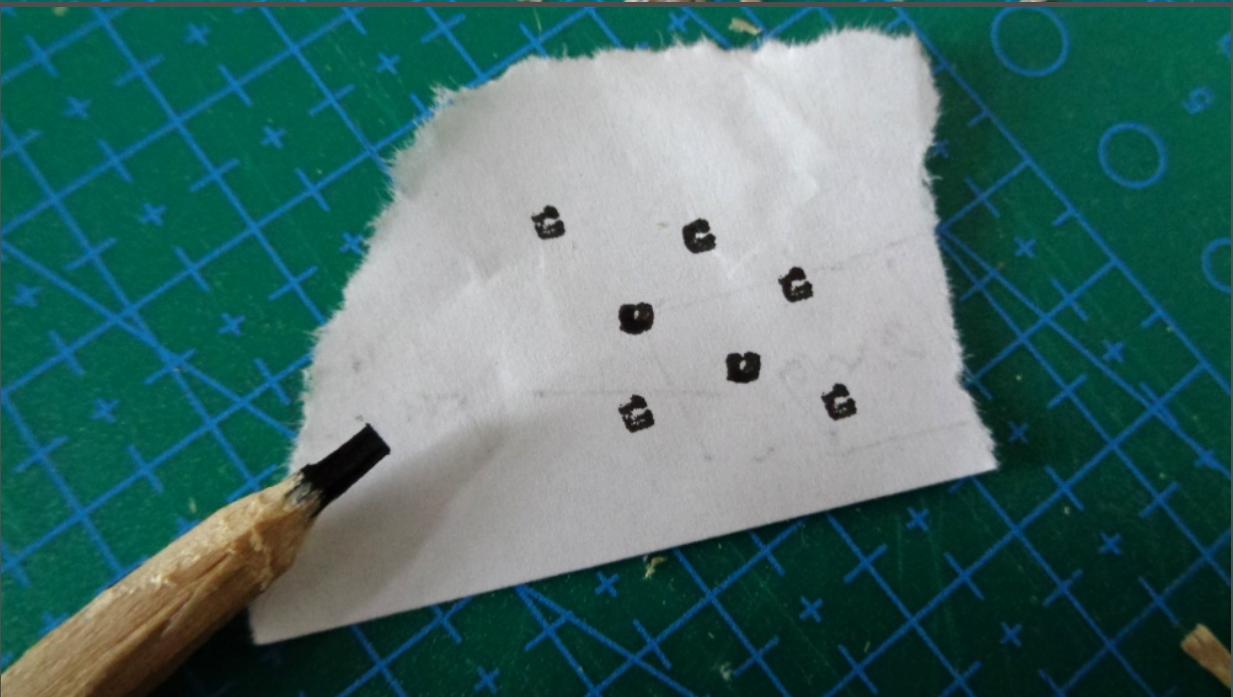
Realisation

Since I got some old clay from my roommate, I had to soak it in water first. You have to be careful not to put too much water in the plastic bag, otherwise it will take a long time to dry. To let the clay dry faster, I put the plastic bag on my heater. My roommate saw this and advised me to put the soft clay in a bowl so that more surface is exposed to the air. Nevertheless it took three days and I had to wait.





In the meantime, I was able to work on the wooden stick. I carved it square at one point. With this I want to set the individual Dotsies points. To test how the tip looks like I dipped it in ink and stamped it on an old piece of paper. That doesn't have to be perfect, because we want to have fun with the project.

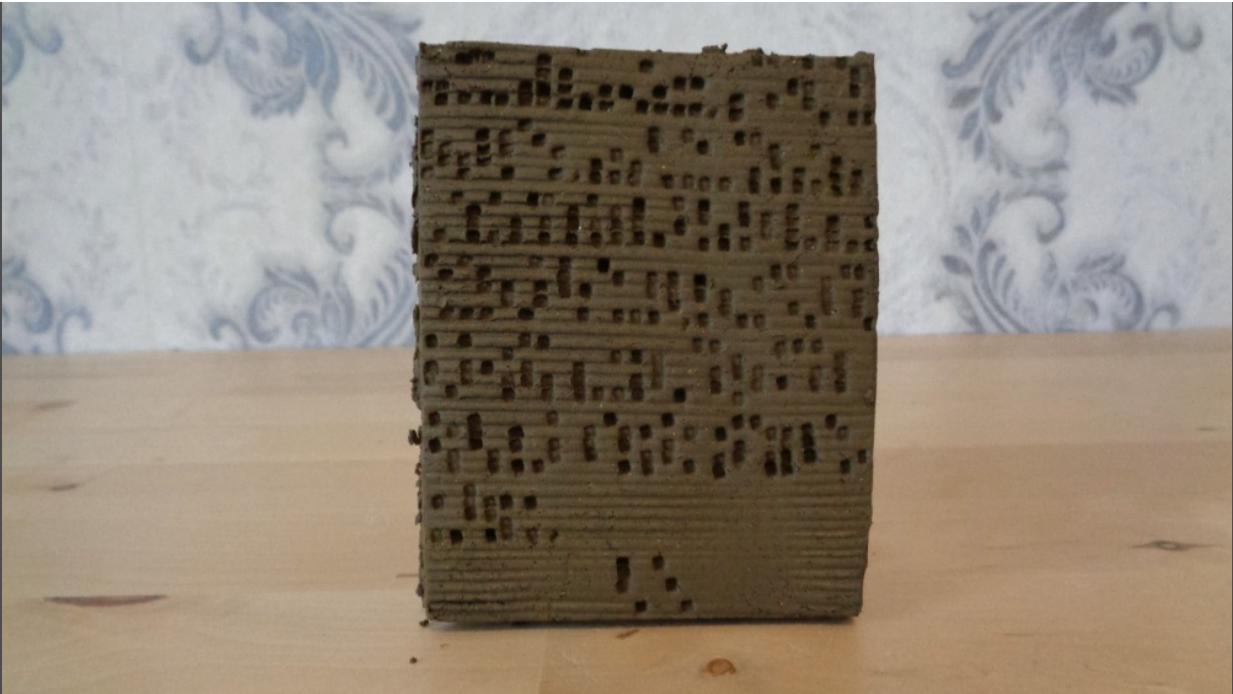


After the clay was soft enough I could start kneading. I put the clay on an old piece of cardboard and crushed it with my hands until it became very soft. Then I took an old glass bottle and rolled

out the clay like a cake dough. So that I write straight I have drawn with a ruler auxiliary lines. Nevertheless, this was difficult in some places and I sometimes prescribed myself. I think you should practice a little first. With a bread knife you can later remove the clay tablet from the cardboard without destroying it. What I wrote on the board you can read when you have learned Dotsies.



Conclusion



I always like to try out things and techniques, even if I may not need them later. Nevertheless, it was incredibly exciting for me to create a clay tablet myself. People have used this form of data storage for quite some time and many records are still available in museums and archives today. I also find Dotsies really exciting and I think that I will deal with this font again. Unfortunately, I can only air dry the clay tablet because I don't have a professional oven. Although I imagine it to be quite exciting to make a real ceramic out of the clay tablet. This increases the durability and makes the material more stable. I might ask my friends or in my local [Hackerspace](#) for more information.

My personal advice to you: Buy some clay in the craft shop (it's not expensive) and try the project out. You can also ask your history teacher if you can do this in class. He certainly won't say no. Or you can write an encrypted secret board to your friends. You can then bury them in your parents' garden and dig them up again after twenty years when you are grown up. I imagine this to be quite exciting.